

priority list. Our proposal also does not include a payroll tax cut. That option may be premature and the wrong response to the problems we face today. There are much better ways to get money in the hands of the Americans who need it most and in the ways they need it most.

For example, in our proposal, the Senate Democratic proposal, if you are a worker and lose your job or can't work, you would qualify for nearly \$10,000 over 6 months in unemployment benefits. If you can't work because you get sick and your employer doesn't provide paid sick leave, we would allow you to apply for unemployment insurance and get reimbursed. Under Senator MURRAY's leadership, we are also doing more on the sick leave front.

If your hours are cut and you suddenly can't pay your mortgage, you are going to lose your home, or if you are otherwise struggling to make ends meet because you choose to pay your mortgage but then can't pay other vital expenses, our proposal would let you defer your mortgage loans for 6 months with no penalty, fees, or impact on your credit. We will do the same for student loans. We will do the same for small business loans. There will be a 6-month moratorium. That helps real people.

If you are a working parent and suddenly you have to worry about finding a safe place for your kids to stay during the day, we would provide emergency funding to safely ramp up childcare services for heavily impacted parts of the country. If you are a small business suddenly facing cash flow problems, we would allow you to apply for low-interest loans and other forms of direct financial assistance that can offer relief quickly and allow you to overcome this problem and keep your business going in a healthy way.

These are just a few examples. Our proposal includes much more but includes what is needed and needed immediately. It includes what Governors across the country are calling for—aid to public health systems and citizens impacted by this crisis.

I would say to my Republican colleagues: We want to work with you. You will have different ideas, but our ideas must be contained in a package. The thing the administration has been talking about, if that is true, is not good enough at all.

There is one other thing we need. As more testing becomes available, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases will inevitably increase and the strain on our public health system will become even greater. We are going to need massive investments to ensure we have the capacity and necessary infrastructure to treat all Americans who need it. Our proposal addresses that as well.

As we discuss what is to come in the next few weeks, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both ends of the Capitol, to review our proposal and organize our next legislative response around these ideas.

In conclusion, this crisis is going to demand more from all of us—more from the administration and a President who has been far too slow in waking up to the scale of the challenges we now face, more from a Congress that has to set aside partisan squabbles and work together, and more from the American people, who must diligently follow public health guidance and endure massive disruptions of their daily lives. I know my family is enduring that right now, and so are millions and millions of families across America.

We have to stick together, be strong, support one another, and we will get through it. We will. We have not faced a public health crisis of this global scale in recent times. We are unsure how long the disturbance to our national economic life will last. Yet we Americans have overcome challenges of this magnitude and even greater before, and we will again. It will demand determination, cooperation, and sacrifice. It will demand an enormous, coordinated effort by the Government of the United States at all levels to protect the health and safety of the American people. But we will overcome this problem, together—strongly, forcefully, and smartly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FISA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the Senate had three priorities for this week: reauthorizing the expiring provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, passing the second phase of our coronavirus response, and initiating a serious discussion about what else we need to do to help Americans address this challenge. I have to say I am glad we have already made progress on all three fronts.

On Sunday, several key provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expired, including the provision that allows the FBI to wiretap lone-wolf terrorists—terrorists not affiliated with a specific terrorist organization—and the roving wiretap provision that prevents the FBI from having to seek a new wiretap warrant each time a terrorist suspect changes his phone number.

Every minute of every day, the men and women of our law enforcement and intelligence communities are working to track terrorist threats and prevent attacks on American citizens. We need to ensure that they have all the tools they need to do their jobs.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act provisions that expired Sunday are key weapons in the fight to

keep Americans safe. I am pleased we were able to pass a 77-day extension yesterday and set up a process for consideration of a long-term extension.

I strongly support the bipartisan House bill, which combines extensions of these key anti-terrorism tools with new accountability measures that will ensure that law enforcement is held to the highest standards when pursuing surveillance of suspected terrorists and foreign agents. Attorney General Barr has also endorsed the House bill. I look forward to taking up this legislation and debating several issues raised by my colleagues before we are on the brink of another expiration.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Of course, the other thing we are focused on this week is the issue that is at the top of everyone's mind, and that is dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Two weeks ago, Congress passed coronavirus legislation providing more than \$8 billion in funding for virus research, testing, and medical care. This week, we are looking to pass the second phase of Congress's response, and that is legislation to continue our investment in medical care and to begin to address the economic impact the coronavirus is having on American workers.

The House has reached an agreement with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and Senators are currently reviewing the House's legislation, which arrived here in the Senate just this morning. I look forward to passing that bill this week.

As the leader said on Sunday, Senate Republicans believe that any legislation we pass this week is only the beginning of Congress's response to the virus.

As this outbreak continues to unfold, other issues will need to be addressed, and Senate Republicans are already planning for legislation to address future priorities, whether they be in the increased funding for medical facilities or measures to provide support for American families and businesses.

This is a challenging time for our country, but it is often in challenging times that we see the very best of America. We are seeing that already—in neighbors' ensuring that neighbors are supplied with necessities; in sports figures' donating to ensure that workers at their arenas are still paid even when games aren't being played; in restaurants' helping to feed their neighbors even though their businesses are currently suffering; in companies and arts organizations' acting to provide free resources to families who are hunkering down at home; in the millions of Americans who are providing the essential services we need during this outbreak—from the workers' stocking the shelves at our grocery stores and pharmacies to the truck drivers' delivering needed goods across our country; finally and especially, in

our healthcare professionals, from doctors and nurses to sanitation staff, who risk exposure every day to ensure that Americans receive the care they need.

When we have come through this outbreak, all of us will want to be able to look back and say that we did everything we could to help keep our fellow Americans safe and slow the spread of this disease. The best way to do that is by following the guidelines that we have been given—washing our hands frequently and thoroughly, practicing social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when advised. Some of these measures may be inconvenient, but they are a small price to pay to flatten the curve and limit the disease's spread.

While anyone can be hit hard by the coronavirus, there are a lot of people who are especially vulnerable to complications—from elderly Americans to the many individuals who have pre-existing conditions. Let's do everything we can to protect our fellow Americans and prevent our hospitals and our healthcare professionals from being overwhelmed with cases.

I am confident that, if we pull together and look out for each other, our Nation will emerge from this challenge stronger. I look forward to working with my colleagues here in Congress to ensure that our Nation has the resources it needs to combat and defeat this disease.

I was encouraged to hear our Senate Democratic leader speak about his willingness to work with the Republicans. Obviously, to do anything here in the Senate requires 60 votes, which means we have to have bipartisan cooperation. We have a legislative vehicle, as I mentioned, that contains a number of features that are helpful, I think, in terms of addressing the crisis that we are experiencing, not only on the healthcare front but on the economic front with regard to the hardships that are being experienced by millions of Americans.

There is more that we need to do, and those discussions, as I mentioned, are underway, and I am hopeful that we will be able to come to a conclusion, to a resolution, that would be good not only for those Americans who have been hurting economically and who, perhaps, are not working and are not able to get to work, but for those businesses that have shut down—our small businesses that create the majority of jobs in this country—and for, certainly, the healthcare professionals, who, as I said, are on the frontlines every single day. We need to take every step we possibly can to ensure that we protect people from the spread of the disease and ensure that they continue to sustain their economic livelihoods in the midst of this crisis.

Many of the things that are being discussed and worked on that will require collaboration with the Democrats and the House of Representatives will need to be approached in a bipartisan way. We need to recognize that the

need is great and that the absolute necessity of cooperation is greater than ever. I look forward to working with our colleagues here this week as we move forward in a way that will, hopefully, lead to some very positive results and will address the very critical needs being felt by families all across this country as a result of this coronavirus disease.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today at a pivotal time for our Nation. It is quiet today in Big Sky Country. Over the last 36 hours, we have seen schools, restaurants, bars, gyms, ski resorts, and churches close. Thousands of children are home from school, many unsure where their next meal will come from, and parents are without childcare.

There are no test kits to test for coronavirus to speak of—a few, but not nearly enough, and inadequate medical supplies in Indian Country.

Thousands are concerned about what it means for their paychecks. Seniors are worried about their health. Businesses are forced to make very, very tough choices.

Millions of Americans are depending on us here in Washington, DC, to act and to act quickly. The House jumped into action and began negotiating with the administration on a bill to address some of the most pressing and immediate concerns of the coronavirus. A deal was struck, and the House passed the bill with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

And what happened in the Senate? Well, last Thursday, the majority leader sent us home. Business as usual.

What we should have done—we should have stuck around and done the people's work. But, instead, my friends in the majority decided we should operate as business as usual and take off Friday, take off the weekend, and go home.

Well, this is not business as usual. If the majority leader would have listened to the CDC, he would have heard that what he did last Thursday was contrary to the recommendations they have made to avoid groups, to avoid airports. We did just the opposite.

Millions of Americans are waiting for the Senate to act. What we are here to consider today, which we should have considered last Saturday, is an important start toward providing needed relief. It provides free testing, sick leave, unemployment insurance for those los-

ing their jobs through no fault of their own.

We could have done this several days ago, but, instead, we continue to wait. We continue to wait as we have watched athletics shut down—the NCAA, baseball, hockey, basketball, NBA—restaurants, Broadway, schools close. The list goes on and on, and we continue to languish here in the U.S. Senate, supposedly the greatest deliberative body in the world. We do this while 4 in 10 Americans struggle to cover an unanticipated expense of \$400. Let me say that again: 4 in 10 families are \$400 away from financial crisis.

This bill ensures that a hotel employee in Billings can stay home if she is feeling ill without sacrificing that \$400 for rent, groceries, or childcare.

A quarter of a million Americans go without medical care for fear of the cost. This bill ensures that no one is going without healthcare or coronavirus tests for fear of the expense. More than that, the bill would increase the amount of funding for Montana's Medicaid Program to cover additional Medicaid expenses.

Many kids in Montana rely on lunch that they get at their schools as the primary source of nutrition for the day. This bill will allow those students to continue to get lunch even if the schools are closed.

Seniors who are homebound rely on meal delivery services such as Meals on Wheels. Missoula Aging Services is already preparing to use its allotment of millions of dollars in additional revenue for senior nutrition, for providing more meals for seniors who are following recommendations to stay home.

This pandemic is already causing significant impacts to our economy. We know that all too well. This is why this bill addresses unexpected unemployment and helps small businesses cover paid sick leave for those who need it.

Under this bill, low-income pregnant women and mothers with young children who lose their jobs due to COVID-19 will be able to access food assistance. All of these are commonsense, bipartisan solutions that the Senate has delayed for no good reason.

On the farm, when there is work to be done, especially when it is time-sensitive work, you don't take a break. You get the job done. I call on my colleagues not to waste another moment—to hold a vote and get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.